

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

LIBRARY

RECEIVED

★ MAY 1 1929 ★

culture.



New Decorative Dahlia "Judge Leon McCord"

BESSIE · BOSTON · DAHLIAS

1929

A Dahlia Chat

REAL Californians expect sunshine and warm weather every day in the year and growl at the necessary rain and invigorating fogs. They swear if now and then there is a frosty morning. The past summer and early fall were unprecedentedly cool, so all the old timers insisted the weather was changing. But, in San Mateo, dahlias were never so good. Every bush in my gardens grew vigorously and was laden with blossoms for a long blooming period. The season of flowers began later than usual but lasted until the middle of December.

I know this was not a favorable season for dahlias in many parts of the country and yet I have never received so many complimentary letters about my introductions. I have been tempted to quote from a few of these in my descriptions.

You will notice many varieties listed in other of my catalogues, are missing in this. I have such a superabundance of splendid seedlings coming on which need care and study, I decided I needed the space and time for them. I frankly admit I missed last fall, many of my old favorites, my own as well as the other introducers', but rejoiced in having more time to watch the progress of seedlings that were one, two, three and four years old.

In the June number of the LADIES HOME JOURNAL, you will find a story on how to grow dahlias by Bessie Boston. To my new customers, a brief explanation of this name, I inherited it from my father, the late Joseph Boston.

ELIZABETH W. LYMBERY
(formerly Bessie Boston.)

P.S.—This joke is on me. There has been running through the rotogravure sections of the newspapers, a picture of me taken among some dahlias. The sub-head said I was seventy years old, but I looked a hundred in the awful picture. Of course I am a great many years younger than seventy.

Order Early—Order early to prevent disappointment.

Substitution—We do not substitute excepting by permission.

Forwarding—We ship at your planting time unless otherwise requested.

Terms—Remittance with order. We prepay transportation on all retail orders.

Culture—With every shipment we enclose growing instructions.

Seeds—See announcement on a back page of the catalogue.

GUARANTEE—We guarantee our unpropagated tubers are true to name and in strong growing condition when shipped. But we do not guarantee very early shipments used for propagating.



JOIN US

The Dahlia Society of San Francisco is flourishing. It was founded two years ago by the leading commercial and amateur growers in the San Francisco Bay section. The membership has grown steadily and now includes people all over the world who enjoy its interesting illustrated Bulletins. Membership is \$2.00 a year. Address the secretary, H. T. Hennig, 621 Third Avenue, San Francisco.

BESSIE BOSTON DAHLIA FARM
SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA

1929

New Decorative Dahlias of Our Own Introduction

The Decorative Dahlia is a double flower, full to the centre in the early season, flat and sometimes ball shaped, with broad, flat, somewhat loosely arranged petals with broad points or rounded tips.

★ALVARADO (Bessie Boston)

Once upon a time there was a woman who disliked majenta and promptly dug up every majenta dahlia in her gardens. She blindly imagined all the world had the same dislike, but in time she learned that majenta had as big a following as pink or red or yellow or any other color. Yes, this flower is pure, unadulterated majenta, and many visitors have admired it. Flower is big and evenly formed of pointed petals. Stem is good and grows straight out of the low growing bushes. An early and late bloomer. A good hot weather variety. **\$5.00.**

★APTOS (Bessie Boston)

A variety which is particularly recommended for a warm climate. As we told you before, this has been an unusually cool summer on the California coast. The first blooms of this decorative were huge, borne on the strongest kind of stems. The color is a lovely gold, flushed with a sunset pink. You wouldn't call it a red and yellow dahlia. The gold predominates all season. We were crazy over the first blooms, but the next big crop of flowers began to show centre. Early centre is an unforgivable fault in a Bessie Boston dahlia, so we just let that dahlia blossom, never took a bud off it, but cut the dead flowers for cleanliness sake. Three scorching hot days arrived, and when they were over, we found countless buds had bloomed into pure decorative flowers. Then we tried to get a few of the buds off, but the bushes were beyond that. We feel certain that this dahlia, grown in a warm climate, will keep its center the full season. Bushes grow tall and bloom very freely from the beginning to the end of the season. **\$5.00.**

★ARIEL (Bessie Boston)

Bright cream, flushed pink. The flower is, of course, large, and of a most attractive form. Petals are long and fairly wide and regularly placed. The bushes grow to medium height and are covered with blossoms all season. The stem is long and wiry, and while stiff, is not rigid, making the blossom most graceful in a bouquet. **\$2.50.**

★CANARY (Bessie Boston)

An exceptional yellow which it will be a joy to grow, as it is one of the earliest varieties to bloom and continues to produce a mass of flowers until the frosts cut the bushes down. A mass of close centred flowers. Will require heavy disbudding early in the season, but very little disbudding is necessary later. Bushes grow tall and very luxuriantly. Give a bush plenty of space to grow. Flowers are very large and evenly formed, and grow on upright, hard stems. This is a much needed yellow and will be found most useful for any purpose. Many visitors to our garden last fall voluntarily stated this was the best lemon yellow decorative they had ever seen. **\$5.00.**

★COPPERTOP (Bessie Boston)

Copper, illuminated with golden lights and suffused with old rose. Briefly, this is the unique color of this splendid big decorative, we quite honestly admit it is absolutely impossible to give a more elaborate description of the coloring. The flowers are very large, gracefully formed, and hold their centres very late. Bushes grow low, begin flowering early, and every day will contain fine exhibition flowers, carried on strong stems, which are equally good for house adornment. Our season's introductions are all grown in rows in one big bed on the wide entrance path to our Highway garden, and this variety was the object of a great deal of attention and favorable comment. **\$5.00.**

★GOLDEN HORN (Bessie Boston)

If you were born across the Atlantic, you like the decorative dahlias of the regularly formed petalage. There are Americans too, who prefer this type, but many people favor, for the exhibition table and for the house, a dahlia of slight irregularity. The petals are formed regularly enough in this decorative, but they are long and crinkly, they have a frilly effect, according to the ladies. The coloring is exquisite, bright, bright yellow, shading deeper early in the season at the centre of the flower. Latterly, the deeper shades appear on the outer petals, rather than in the centre. Blooms freely, size very large. Bushes grow moderately tall and carry many flowers on excellent stems. This is one of the loveliest dahlias, cut, you can imagine. Stock is limited. **\$10.00.**



New Decorative Dahlia "Ivory"

NEW DECORATIVE DAHLIAS OF OUR OWN INTRODUCTION—(Continued)

★**IVORY (Bessie Boston)** Illustrated

For years we have been watching our seedlings for white dahlias. Ofttimes a first year's seedling has been most promising only to be a failure the second or the third year. There is a scarcity of A1 white dahlias. Well, this immense decorative is creamy white, the shade of old ivory, a color which does not vary from the beginning to the end of the season. A decorative of a most delightful form, composed of long, pointed, waving petals. The centre of the flower is a deep cream, the petals are a shade lighter at the outer edges. Each petal has a tiny tip of deep cream, and the flower is suffused with cream. Stem is hard and stiff. The bushes will always contain several high-class flowers, but this is not as profuse a variety as some other dahlias. Bushes grow fairly tall and flowers late in the season have perfect centres. April 15 shipment. **\$15.00.**

★**JUDGE LEON McCORD (Bessie Boston)** Front Cover Illustration

An enormous flower, grown on an absolutely stiff, upright stem, which does not bend a particle at any season or in any weather. The color is the deepest shade of gold, with a reverse of old rose. Bushes grow to medium height, but the flower stems grow right out of the foliage, and are long and leafless. A regularly formed flower which lasts two weeks on the bush and is excellent for cutting. Flowers start about the middle of August, the bushes will always be gay with enormous blooms. This is the brief description we wrote in the garden of this variety, omitting, however, to state that this is one of the deepest dahlias we have ever seen as well as one of the largest, and what more is there to be said. The dahlia was photographed the first of October for the cut which illustrates the description. The name bespeaks its excellence, and we cannot resist quoting what a friend of Judge McCord wrote us about the remarkable man for whom we were allowed to name this decorative. "Judge McCord is one of the most popular and beloved men in all Alabama, and perhaps in the whole South. He is a big, upstanding, handsome, dark-haired, ruddy-cheeked Irishman, whose face, while not on the bench, is nearly always lit up with a magnetic smile that often lights up his whole countenance with a glow that I might compare to a handsome dahlia or rose as it lights up either under the rays of God's own sun or under the brightness of man's artificial light. His keen wit, big-heartedness, wonderful oratorical powers, and almost unfailing judge of human nature have made him extremely popular with everyone with whom he has come into contact. In my opinion, which is shared by thousands of others, he is the most potent factor for good in our State. Now I know that is putting it pretty strong, but any man who can get an average of one thousand people—jews, gentiles, foreigners, in fact all classes—out to hear him lecture, not just a few Sundays in the year, but every Sunday for eight consecutive years, there must be something unusual about the man." Shipping date not before April 15. **\$20.00.**

★**JULIETTE (Bessie Boston)**

If you enjoy working in the garden, grow Juliette. It is one of those dahlias which just seem to love to bloom. From early August to December, our bushes have been a mass of large, well formed blooms. The color might be described as white, heavily overlaid with rose pink. The effect is a pink blossom. Plants grow fairly tall and bushy, every bush seems to produce about a million buds. You can take them all off one week and go back the next week and find another big supply to take up your time. In this part of the world we don't appreciate these excessive bloomers, they take up too much valuable time. But then, when you grow thousands of bushes of dahlias, that is not to be wondered at. We certainly hope that some of our customers will keep track of the blossoms of this variety next year. We once had a report of a Mariposa, grown in New Jersey, which produced fifty blooms. Many people thought this was marvelous. However, nearly all of our varieties produce a good many more blossoms than that in a season. This is an attractively formed flower, with long, narrow petals. **\$5.00.**

★**MAIDEN FAIR (Bessie Boston)**

Very tall, robust bushes, carry a wealth of enormous flowers the entire season. We measured a flower cut haphazardly one day, and it was nine inches. It was taken from a bush which had not been well disbudded. Early flowers are a flesh pink, shading to white at the centre, but later blossoms are a very delicate pink shading lighter towards the tips. Stems are stiff and very long and have a slight dip at the first lateral, but they can be cut and arranged either in a show or in the house, most effectively. We quite admit that this is a baffling type to designate. At times the flowers take the decorative form, at other times they are hybrid cactus. Sometimes we think there should be a new type introduced, called hybrid decorative. The petals are long and narrow, and many of them roll distinctly, but oftentimes the center petals are flat, while the outer ones roll. **\$5.00.**

★**MINAMOTO'S CRIMSON (Minamoto-Bessie Boston)**

The most noticeable thing about this new dahlia is its form, which is quite distinct, but is classed in California as a decorative. The flower looks like a giant pin wheel. The petals turn and twist in an odd manner. Coloring is a warm, rich crimson lake—a red that can be used with pinks. Stem is long and stiff. Bushes grow to medium height, bloom very early and very freely, and continue blooming all season. The flower is very large and will always attract attention because of its coloring and unusual form. Seeds of this type of dahlia are being widely advertised as the chrysanthemum type, but it does not resemble a chrysanthemum as much as some of the large hybrid cactus do. **\$10.00.**



New Decorative Dahlia "Minamoto's Pink"

NEW DECORATIVE DAHLIAS OF OUR OWN INTRODUCTION—(*Continued*)

★MINAMOTO'S PINK (Minamoto-Bessie Boston) Illustrated

Everybody around here thinks this is an A-1 pink. It is a deep pink, somewhat the coloring of Rookwood. In comparing Rookwood and this new variety, we find that Rookwood is a much lighter shade and is heavily suffused with lavender. Minamoto's Pink is a deep pink, with no suffusion of lavender except late in the season, when the centre petals are slightly tinted with lavender. Petals are long and narrow, with an inclination to roll. Note, we say an inclination only. At no time could it be classed as a hybrid cactus. Flowers are extremely large and borne on very long stems. Good for a cut flower or for exhibition. Bushes will always lend charm to a garden. They grow moderately tall, are profuse bloomers, starting early and continuing until the end of the season with full centres. We are fortunate in having a good stock of this variety as we have been accumulating it for some years. Oh, why can't we show you some of these blossoms? Descriptions seem so futile. Rookwood, Minamoto's Pink Kitty Dunlap and pinks of a lighter shade, combine beautifully. Mr. Minamoto was always ambitious for a good pink, and we honestly believe he finally got one that will be most popular. This is an extraordinary cut flower. It is our custom to have an abundance of flowers the year round in our house. During the season, dahlias naturally predominate, the large flowers for the vases, collarettes for the baskets and pompoms for the bowls. **\$10.00.**

★PORTOLA (Bessie Boston)

A dull, rich red, with a reverse of old gold, is the coloring of this decorative, a flower that has attracted everybody's attention, both on the exhibition table and in the field, because it was so entirely different. This can be aptly described as a true autumn colored flower and resembles nothing in coloring except one variety of chrysanthemum. Petalage is fairly regular, flower very large, and grown on a splendid stem. Bushes grow low, and the flower stems grow well out of the foliage. Blooms profusely from the beginning to the end of the flowering period. Portola will combine with all the reds, all the yellows, and all the autumn colored dahlias, in either a basket or a bouquet, and we might add, will stand out among all the others. **\$5.00.**

★PURISSIMA (Bessie Boston)

"This a new Cream King." We made this remark to a customer in this district, and he promptly exclaimed, "But Cream King is a peony." We smiled. Yes, we class Cream King as a peony in California, but in the East we understand it is a pure type decorative. There has been a rule for many years in the Palace Hotel shows that a dahlia shall be judged on the type it is shown. This has been most confusing to people with notebooks, because dahlias which would, in the warm locations bordering on San Francisco bay, be pure decorative type, would take the peony form in San Francisco. The bushes of this variety grow tall, and carry their flowers, which are big, on strong stems. In the middle of October the blooms were still full to the centre. A lovely, soft color. The flowers are particularly good for cutting, and blend well not only with the yellows, but with the old rose shades. **\$5.00.**

★RED KNIGHT (Bessie Boston)

A red that will soon be as popular as Tommy Atkins, but a different shade, pure, brilliant scarlet. Coloring does not vary throughout the flower. Effect is heightened by the velvety sheen of the petals. Occasionally there is a dahlia with petals of a velvety texture. Red Knight is one of these and moreover the blooms have a brilliant metallic lustre. Until midseason the flowers are very large. Petals are placed regularly, centres remain closed all season. Bushes grow tall, bloom very early and always bounteously. Stems are particularly long and stiff. "A most attractive scarlet," stated an Eastern visitor; "now please don't apologize for it when you write your description," and we wondered if we had been guilty of apologizing for our red introductions. **\$5.00.**

★SNOW WHITE (Bessie Boston)

An enormous blossom of absolutely pure white, white as a lily, not the slightest tinting of yellow or pink at any time of the season. Plants grow tall and bushy. The flower is most attractive in form, having depth as well as size. Petals are regularly placed, long and wide, but the flower is never stiff. Stems are long and good when the bushes are grown in the sunshine. We add this because some of the bushes of this variety were grown in the shade of our house, and the stems on those bushes, while fair, did not have the stiffness of those in the same garden that were grown in the full sunshine. This decorative blooms early and produces flowers generously all the blossoming months. There will always be plenty of buds to be removed, don't be afraid to disbud. This description was written in the middle of October, and at that time the bushes were full of good blooms and hundreds of buds. We might add the buds finally burst into bloom and the last of November we picked a big bouquet of it. **\$15.00.**

★TANTE (Bessie Boston)

From time to time we have offered you a dahlia which we have recommended for cutting only. This decorative is one of those. The flowers grow to medium size, carried on long, slender, stiff stems. The coloring is wistaria. Bushes grow tall and are always full of blooms. The flowers will be much bigger grown in a light soil than in a heavy one. The recurved petals are small and pointed and wrinkle a trifle. The foliage is very dark green, making a lovely background for the charming flowers. **\$2.50.**

NEW DECORATIVE DAHLIAS OF OUR OWN INTRODUCTION—(Continued)

★TOPAZ (Bessie Boston)

This is a great big flower, grown on the stiffest and straightest stem there is. Bushes grow low, but not dwarf, and will bloom very early in the season, continuing to produce marvellous flowers in abundance. Topaz has been one of our comforts as it is a free blooming variety which is easy to disbud. Flowers grow straight out of the bushes on exceedingly long stems. The coloring is most distinctive, cream and amber, heightened by a reverse of soft, sunset pink, but the general effect of the flower is a deep, dull old gold. This is the coloring the whole season long. Petals are regularly placed but flowers are not stiff. Blossoms have splendid keeping qualities when cut and last for days on the bushes. A blossom lasted three days in the house during the three hottest days of the season of 1928. A prolific bloomer, which can be used for any purpose. A most attractive flower for the show bench, and one of the best cut flowers we have ever introduced. The stem is hard as a rock, and the flowers grow very near to the top. \$10.00.

★UNDINE (Bessie Boston)

Undine is one of the dahlias that will keep a week when cut. The color is old rose, heavily flushed with lavender, and is much prettier than this sounds. One of the earliest dahlias to bloom. The flower is regularly formed and grows on an absolutely stiff stem, but will not hold its centre the entire California season. The peony type flowers which come late in the season last as well as those of the true type. Bushes grow to medium height and carry a wealth of blooms. We could pick a dozen or more blossoms from every bush the first of November, and these same flowers lasted three days in a vase on an open air flower stand, where they got both sun during the day and dew at night time. Centres should remain closed where the seasons are shorter than they are close to San Francisco. The flower is very large at all seasons. \$5.00.

★VARIABLE (Bessie Boston)

This name is most descriptive of the dahlia. The first crop of flowers are a dark, warm red. Then will come a crop of flowers which are (according to Ridgway's chart) a true purple, in our eyes it is heliotrope. As these die out another crop of the maroon blooms will come on, and so on throughout the season. Occasionally a bush will have both colors. We have never seen a dahlia just like it, but we must admit that both colors have pleased the public. The blooms are immense, and of a most attractive form. Petals are long, wide and curling. The flowers grow at the top of the stem, which is long and stiff, carrying the blooms well out of the foliage. Blooms very freely at all seasons. Bushes grow moderately tall and at all times are covered with a high type of enormous flowers. Late flowers are as large as the crown flowers. \$10.00.



Decorative Dahlias—*Novelties and Standards*

*The Prices are for Strong Tubers
Introducers' Names are in Parenthesis
Those Starred are California Dahlias*

★AMULET (Oliver-Bessie Boston)

Amulet is a rich deep brown, slightly suffused with gold and old rose. While coloring is important, Amulet has every other good quality, such as large deep flowers, very long, branching stems, freedom of production, a centre which remains closed, and best of all, the flower will remain fresh in a bouquet when all the rest of the bunch is ready for the compost heap. Bushes grow tall and are among generous producers of flowers which start to bloom early. An Alabama customer writes, "The most profuse bloomer of large flowers in the garden. Has been a mass of blooms all summer and right now has eight or ten magnificent blooms on the plant. Have cut fifty or more off plant this summer." \$3.00.

★ANACAPA (Bessie Boston)

This is one of the most lasting dahlias we have ever seen. Blossoms of it arranged in a bouquet of autumn shades were always fresh when the others were fading. The flowers on the bushes last indefinitely. Color is a fall shade of rusty gold, shading to tan at the centre. Bushes are of medium height, are the first to bloom, and are weighted with flowers when Jack Frost finally puts an end to them. Flower all season is very large and carried on a good stem. Petals are long and fairly wide and are slightly irregular, so the flower is graceful. \$5.00.

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★ANSELMO (Bessie Boston)

A very big and very deep flower of chamois suffused with autumn tints of dull old rose. The reverse of the petals is the same shade as the suffusion. Petal formation is slightly irregular. Stem is hard and strong at all seasons. Foliage is attractively cut. Plants grow moderately tall and branch freely, forming a compact bush which will carry from early to late season a wealth of perfect big blooms, which will be found useful for any purpose. **\$3.00.**

★ARISTOCRAT (Bessie Boston)

Every professional dahlia grower has many types of customers as he has types of dahlias. Some people buy dahlias because they are so colorful in the garden; some because they enjoy them arranged in the house, and others because they want them for exhibition. Aristocrat should please anybody. The tall growing bushes are laden with long, stiff stemmed, large blossoms, which are always full to the centre. Color is a delight to the eye. It is white, heavily suffused with bluish lavender, and never varies excepting the white is more noticeable as the days shorten. The well formed blossom, with but little disbudding, is exhibition size. **\$3.50.**

★BEAU BRUMMEL (Bessie Boston)

Beau Brummel is a flower of pure royal purple which does not fade nor burn on the hottest day. Stands erect on an incomparable stem. Grows on low spreading bushes. Produces the entire season a super-abundance of very big, deep blossoms. An all around excellent dahlia of a rare color, which has been grown with excellent results everywhere and withstood rain and extremely hot weather. **\$1.50.**

★BEAU IDEAL (Bessie Boston)

This is a Mariposa in decorative form. The color will vary. In some climates the lavender will predominate, and in others, pink. Some bushes will contain blossoms of both colors. That happens in our own garden, and Eastern correspondents write us they have the same experience. They also write that all flowers were immense and beautiful. Soil as well as climate seems to cause this variation. One customer will write, his flowers were pink with a deeper pink centre, and another, not far away, will obtain lavender flowers only. When blossoms of both colors grew on a bush, the shades blended harmoniously. Early and late our bushes are covered with immense flowers borne on long, straight stems. They grow right out of the foliage. This variety has all the good points of Mariposa and letters from pleased customers are most enthusiastic. One of the best twelve Californians in the Palace Hotel show in 1927. **\$5.00.**

★BESSIE BOSTON (Leedham)

A decorative which is always in demand because of its splendid stem and lasting qualities when cut. Looks like a big red sunflower with cleft petals. **75c.**

★BUENO (Bessie Boston)

"Bueno gave an excellent account of itself. Strong, robust, immense flowers on great stems. Extremely free and always double. It was greatly admired," wrote one of the largest growers of dahlias in New Jersey. We prophesied the year we introduced this dahlia, it would live up to its name, which is Spanish for good. It is a large beautiful flower of an original coloring, with a long, perfectly stiff stem. It glows in the sunshine, and is even lovelier under artificial light. We had a large chest of gold and various autumn colored dahlias in a show, and people constantly asked, "What is the glorious brown dahlia," referring to this decorative. Brown is scarcely descriptive of the color, which is burnished copper, shading to bright yellow at the centre. The whole flower is suffused with pink. Stem is incomparable. Bushes grow tall, and have excellent flowers from early to late season. Flower is large and deep and is excellent for exhibition and cutting, as it is what is briefly called "a good keeper." **\$5.00.**

★CHAMPAGNE (Bessie Boston)

This decorative has been a continuous winner of prizes. Champagne is one of the largest dahlias we have ever produced, but size, while a strong feature in a dahlia, is not everything. This decorative seems blessed with all the dahlia qualities to make it a success. Color is delightful, warm autumn shades, varying from burnished copper to a dull golden champagne and chamois. Stem is heavy and holds the massive flower absolutely upright, and the bushes are plentiful producers of blooms. One of the best twelve Californians in the Los Angeles show of 1927. **\$1.00.**

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★CHANG (Ballay)

A worthwhile 1928 introduction of immense size and fascinating blend of colors. Bushes are tall and robust and produce prolifically of flowers on hard, straight stems. The rest of the description is the originators. Burnished copper and gold—of oriental blending and lustre which is unmistakably associated with the Far East. The reddish copper tone, which is very prominent in the earlier flowers, is largely displaced by the gold coloring in the late season. The gorgeous blossom is very full with great depth and massive in size—"Chang" meaning "elephant" in the Siamese language. \$7.50.

★COLORFUL (Bessie Boston)

The most difficult dahlia we have ever had to describe. For five years we have watched this decorative and dreaded the day when we should have to attempt a description. It is gold, red and violet. Gold is the color of the outside of the petals which are delicately suffused with scarlet. The reverse of every petal is violet. All these odd colors are softly blended together to form a lovely flower filled with metallic lustre. Flower is very large. Bushes grow tall and bloom freely from the beginning to the end of the flowering period. Flowers have excellent centres. \$3.00.

★DR. W. A. CLARK (Oliver-Bessie Boston)

The flower is immense, and the coloring is golden yellow shading to apricot at the centre. Depth corresponds to diameter. Stem is absolutely erect, carrying the blossom well out of the bushes which grow medium height. Flowers early and continuously. Miss Oliver has had eleven-inch flowers on her bushes. This might aptly be described as an improved El Dorado. Although we hate to admit it, the blossoms are larger than on our introduction which we have discarded in favor of Miss Oliver's dahlia. \$5.00.

★EARLE WILLIAMS (Doolittle)

An immense scarlet, tipped white. Deep, regularly formed blossom, borne on a fine stem. An exceptionally fine variety of most brilliant coloring. Prize winner. \$1.50.

★FAITH GARIBALDI (Garibaldi-Bessie Boston)

One of the twelve winning Californians in the 1928 Palace Hotel Show in San Francisco. Also the best Californian shown in several other shows throughout the country the past and former seasons. We have in former years exhibited this immense decorative at the Palace Hotel and captured three gold medals with it. As a debutante, it was judged the best six blooms of a three-year-old seedling, and the next year, it won with best display of fifty blooms. In 1926, the judges decided it was the best twenty-five blooms in the show. An amateur the same year won, with a thirteen-inch flower, a sweepstake in Portland, Oregon. It is one of the dahlias that grows better every year and is one of our biggest sellers. The color is a charming silvery pink. It has great depth as well as large size, and is held up straight on a long, stiff stalk. Begins blooming early in August, and continues until frost. Every flower is large and perfectly formed. Flowers begin early and late blooms will be large and beautiful. The stem is strong at all seasons. Flowers never show centre. Blossoms are ideal for cutting as well as exhibiting, as they retain their freshness for a long period. We have had blossoms last a week in the house. \$2.00.

★FLAMING METEOR (Barker)

This is a Southern California dahlia, which for the past two seasons has won the prize for the best fifty blooms in the splendid Los Angeles show. It is a brilliant vermilion or orange scarlet color. Flower is immense and carried on an erect stem. Bushes grow medium height and bloom freely. This is one of the most popular dahlias in the cut flower market in the Southern city. \$3.00.

★GRACIAS (Oliver-Bessie Boston)

"Why the name," ask our friends who understand that it means "thank you" in Spanish. In a crude way it is our expression of gratitude to Miss Oliver for the gift of this stunning dahlia. We believe this is one of the biggest, deepest dahlias, ever introduced. The color is yellow, heavily overlaid with oriental red. Stem is first class and holds the flower erect. Very free flowering, starts early and continues all season. In August, last year, we found one bush with twelve flowers, each flower at least ten inches in diameter. Bushes grow low, are improved with disbudding. \$2.50.

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★GRENADIER (Bessie Boston)

If you saw this dahlia growing you would want it, as it stands alone in color and form. It is a purplish maroon shade combined with silver. The petals on one side are purple and the other pale silver. Owing to the out of the way construction, the flower shows both colors. The petals quill and turn back, and the whole construction is unique. It is a monster flower and very deep. The stems are heavy and hold up the blooms at all times. They are very lengthy and grow right out of the bushes without a leaf. It has a delightful fashion of producing flowers liberally. \$2.50.

★HONEYMOON (Bessie Boston)

Is not the name suggestive of youth, beauty and happiness? We have been told many times the name is descriptive of the gay, crisp blossom of this decorative. Brides loved it. Dainty shading of cream and pink, delicately blended so neither color prevails. A true pastel effect. The big flower is carried on a straight, stiff stem, and grows well out of the foliage. Formation is most attractive and artistic. Petals are narrow and irregularly placed. The bushes grow tall and are bright with blossoms the entire season. Flowers last well when cut. \$4.00.

JERSEY BEACON (Waite)

The color is Chinese scarlet with a tan reverse. Both colors show in the open flower. The huge blossom is very deep and borne on a splendid long stem. Bushes grow tall. This Eastern decorative has won many prizes. \$1.50.

★JESSIE K. PRESCOTT (Bessie Boston)

The color is deep orange at the centre, gradually shading to a creamy orange on the rows of outer petals. The formation is unusual, as the long, narrow petals have an inclination to roll backward. The tall bushes are branching and productive of masses of splendid flowers with exceptionally long, good stalks. \$1.00.

★JOVE (Ballay)

The largest flower exhibited by an amateur in the Flower Lovers Club shows at San Jose, California, in 1927 and 1928. The exhibition blossoms were eleven inches. Color is bronze, shaded with old rose and gold. Flower at all times is very large. Bushes grow tall and produce generously. Flowers have long, strong stalks. \$5.00.

★JOY (Bessie Boston)

"Joy is surely a joy to grow," writes a pleased Southern California commercial grower. We do not wonder he was pleased, as Joy won two big prizes for him in the beautiful 1928 Los Angeles Show. First, for the best six blooms of a lavender, and a Special for the best keeping variety. Mr. and Mrs. Walker also had Joy among their nine Californians in the Palace Hotel Show in San Francisco. These won the prize in the semi-professional class, the flowers being carried in an automobile over three hundred miles to San Francisco. A clear silvery lavender without a trace of white, is the color of this exquisite introduction. Imagine Shudow's Lavender without any white shading, and you have the color of Joy. An immense flower which grows exactly on the top of the stem like a chrysanthemum. Formation is as attractive as Shudow's Lavender, but different. Grows tall and has beautiful fernlike leaves. Blooms early and late, and at all times profusely. Flower never shows centre. Behaves much like our old favorite, Shudow's Lavender, but the flower is larger. We have many letters praising Joy from Eastern customers. \$7.50.

★J. W. DAVIES (Bessie Boston)

The deepest shade of cerise at the centre graduating to a lighter tint, this blending of two shades of cerise creates an entirely new effect. The giant flower has depth, as well as size, the stem is perfect, making it as good for cutting as exhibiting. It blooms profusely all season. One of the winning twelve Californians in the last Show held by the Dahlia Society of San Francisco at the Palace Hotel. \$2.00.

★KITTY DUNLAP (Bessie Boston)

Kitty Dunlap is not only a beauty, but has every characteristic which endears it to a dahlia grower. Blooms freely all seasons, has excellent keeping qualities, long firm stems, immense size, and great substance. It is of the delightful shade of the American Beauty rose. The petals are broad but have a slight tendency to roll, the long stems are practically without leaves. \$1.00.

★MARY C. BURNS (Bessie Boston)

This is a sensational dahlia which will immediately arrest attention because of its extraordinary coloring. The outside of the petals is old gold and the reverse a dull red. Stem is admirable, and it is a wonderful free bloomer. The size is enormous. \$1.00.



Decorative Dahlia "Mr. E. Leedham"

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★MAUD JOHNSON (Johnson)

This is an irresistible new coloring and the effect is delightful both in the daylight and under electric illumination. The color varies slightly in San Mateo from that of San Francisco where it originated, so we are describing it as we grew it here. It is pinkish violet, shaded to white flushed with lavender. The base of all petals is gold, and each petal has a wee tip of gold. Flower is very large and attractively formed with long curling petals. Bushes grow tall and produce plentifully of blossoms. Begins flowering early. Stem is long and stiff and stands well out of the foliage. Flowers in the season retain their centres. Favorable reports of this fine Californian have been received from the East. \$2.50.

★MECCA (Bessie Boston)

One of the best reds we have ever grown and we have grown hundreds of them. A delightful coloring of ruby red. A fine big flower which grows on a strong, long stem. A red so pink it will combine with old rose. Petals are irregularly formed, making a graceful flower. Plants grow very tall and sturdily and bloom steadily all season. Centres remain closed. Particularly good for cutting, but recommended for exhibition as well. A delight to the eye as it grows in the garden. \$2.50.

★M. H. de YOUNG (Bessie Boston)

This decorative was among the winning Californians in 1927 in both the San Francisco and Los Angeles shows, and also was among the twelve Californians in the Palace Hotel Show in 1928. Pure old gold, with scarcely any variation in color except perhaps the centre is illuminated with a slightly brighter shade. The first flowers do not perceptibly vary from the last ones in coloring. Always a mass of immense deep blossoms, which are borne high on absolutely stiff stems, which have a pleasing habit of growing well out of the foliage. This superlative dahlia has bloomed well everywhere. \$4.00.

★MISCHIEF (Bessie Boston)

This dahlia has interested us since we saw its first bloom because it was so strikingly original. It has excited the interest of the public as well, and scarcely a day passed when somebody has not jumped out of a machine and come to ask its name and usually left an order. The three outer rows of petals are scarlet, and the rest of the flower is bi-colored, white heavily flushed red, the tips being pure white. Foliage is ornamental. Bushes grow tall and very luxuriantly. Stem is good. Late in October the bushes bear some red flowers which are often flecked with white. Flowers are very large all season and centres are splendid. Give this variety plenty of space to grow. \$3.00.

★MR. E. LEEDHAM (Bessie Boston) Illustrated

Our lives are influenced by small events. Many years ago the writer saw her first dahlia show in Santa Cruz, California. The first glimpse enthralled her; she fell in love then and there with this colorful autumn flower. Her enthusiasm was so great, Mr. E. Leedham, one of the exhibitors, honored her by naming his best seedling, Bessie Boston. The seed was sown then for the Bessie Boston Dahlia Farm, but the business was not started until a dozen years later. In memory of Mr. Leedham we have named one of our best introductions for him, and we sincerely believe this introduction is worthy of the name. The flower is huge, and has great depth as well as diameter. The color is orange scarlet, it does not burn in the sunshine. The stem is very long and carries the flower right on the top of it. This unusual characteristic is most noticeable until late in the season, but the stem at all times is stiff. Bushes grow very tall and are free producers. They begin flowering early. This decorative is illustrated on another page. "A favorite with everyone. There is something different about it. 100% stem. So perfect it seems artificial. Abundant bloomer." Thus wrote an eastern customer, and from Santa Barbara, California, came the following: "A few days ago Thomas brought in a Mr. E. Leedham that I thought one of the very finest dahlia blooms I had ever seen; it was a stunner. I am including Mr. E. Leedham in my star dozen." \$10.00.

★MRS. ELEANOR MARTIN (Pelicano)

One of the best California introductions which has been grown successfully everywhere. A prize winner in Eastern and local shows. The color has been well described as mulberry. The petals are a peculiar rose tint with a reverse of violet. There is no color combination like it. Sunshine increases the beauty of coloring. Stem is long and straight, and bushes are always well covered with blossoms. \$2.00.

★NIKITA (Bessie Boston)

Nikita is unique in every way. An immense, deep flower, of striking and graceful formation. Color, crimson, with a reverse of pinkish tan, and centre cream. Petals have a trick of twisting and turning, and colors mix and blend so it is impossible to give a pen picture of this charming combination of shades, or the grace of the blossom. Flower is of the largest size and very deep, and held on a stem so stiff, it will look you fully in the face. Bushes are low growing and will at all seasons bloom generously with the highest type of flowers. \$5.00.

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★OASIS (Bessie Boston)

This decorative is a delightful true pink without any trace of yellow or lavender. It is the pink of the old fashioned Duchess rose, only deeper in tone. A large, but not heavy flower, of long straight petals which curl slightly. Stem is long and straight. The bushes do not grow high and are completely smothered with blooms. **\$2.00.**

★OSAM SHUDOW (Bessie Boston)

The original Osam Shudow was our friend and associate who worked so energetically to bring fame to Bessie Boston dahlias before his untimely death in 1918. The big, heavy, loose petals produce a flower more like a gigantic rose than a dahlia. Color, a delightful old rose slightly suffused with lilac and shading to yellow at the centre. No bloom has ever been less than nine inches in diameter and most of them larger. The bush is very sturdy and tall, and the main stalk is the thickest we have ever grown. The flower stem is long, thick and heavy and the blossom comes well above the attractive foliage. One bloom is a bouquet. **\$1.00.**

★OTONO (Bessie Boston)

This means Autumn in Spanish. The flower is a brilliant gold, full of metallic lustre, the reverse of the petals is reddish pink. The unfolded centre petals are dull red. We have never seen a mixture of autumn shades like it. Flower is large and deep with best possible stem. Blooms freely all season. Bushes grow fairly tall. **\$2.50.**

★PERELLA (Bessie Boston)

"An outstanding new dahlia," writes one of our Eastern correspondents. On our desk as we write this description we have two flowers in a vase. One is Rookwood and the other Perella. The new decorative is suggestive in coloring of the older variety. But there is really a marked difference; Perella is much pinker and without the lavender suffusion of Rookwood. It is bright rose pink, shading lighter on the outer petals, the inner circle of petals show a trace of lavender. Petals are long, fairly flat, but not regularly placed. The flower is bigger than Rookwood but not so deep. Stem is long and stiff and grows out of the foliage and holds the flower up. Bushes grow of medium height and are productive of an abundance of perfect blooms from early to late season. **\$5.00.**

★QUEEN (Bessie Boston)]

Might be appropriately called "Queen of the Autumn," as it is a combination of fall colorings. Deep brownish gold, with a very slight reddish glow, shading to gold at the centre. Flower is large, and carried on a long, rigid stem which never bends even late in the season. Petals are long, narrow, and pointed. Bushes grow tall and bloomed freely but did not start blooming until the first of September. Centre is always perfect. This variety can be used for exhibition as well as cutting. It is in its perfection when the nights are cool and the autumn colors are beginning to show in the woodlands. **\$3.00.**

★QUEEN OF THE GARDEN BEAUTIFUL

This dahlia originated in the famous garden of the inmates of San Quentin Prison. It is a very large primrose yellow with a strong stem. It has been a prize winner in many shows. A twelve-inch blossom was the largest flower in the show held in the Palace Hotel by the newly organized Dahlia Society of San Francisco. **\$2.50.**

★REGAL (Bessie Boston) Back Cover Illustration

A variety which has had a great success in different parts of the country, grown from California roots. We are quoting from several of the many letters praising it.

From Pawtucket, R. I. "I will just write a few lines now informing you that Regal is a wonder, so far it has outshined everything in my garden. In fact I have all the very best in the East and I must admit that Regal trims them all."

From Marshallton, Del. "I am glad to tell you I won your prize for the best Californian in the Delaware State Dahlia Society show with Regal."

From Lancaster, Ohio. "You were wondering about Regal, at the time I wrote you the buds were as big as my fist, and when they opened I beheld the first real Dahlias I ever grew, they measured fourteen inches, just think of it, six of them. I did not measure the depth but they were better than five inches through."

From San Diego, California. "I never have seen such a blossom as was on my Regal; enclosed is a snap of it with our head man; it measured sixteen and a half inches across, even you could do no better."

The following description is taken from our 1928 catalogue:

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*



"Regal," 16½ inches in diameter

(Continued)

The biggest Bessie Boston introduction and a prize winner in the Palace Hotel show for two seasons. In 1926, it received the Gold Medal for the best six blooms of a three-year-old seedling, and in 1927 was awarded the Western Horticulture's silver cup for the best twenty-five blooms. This is a variety which will produce many ten-inch blooms. The crown blossoms will be at least twelve inches and other flowers of this immense size can be obtained by disbudding generously. Many huge dahlias are rather shy bloomers, but Regal is an exception. The plants grow medium height and are one of the first to bloom. They produce countless high-class flowers on long, rigid stems, which grow well out of the foliage. The first bloom, however, if the bush is not pinched back, will have only a twelve-inch stem. Late flowers are very, very big. A delightful and different combination of autumn shades, bronze, heavily suffused with dull old rose, and shading to gold at the base of the petals, giving an effect of burnished copper. We have twice illustrated this variety. **\$20.00.**

★RHAPSODY (Bessie Boston)

The blossom during the warm weather is deep old rose with a contrasting gold centre. The two colors are distinctly marked. As the season advances and the days and nights become cooler, it is old gold, heavily shaded with old rose, with a reverse of deep rose. An irregularly, attractively shaped flower, but true to type. A fascinating flower for cutting, and large and heavy enough to grace an exhibition table. Height of bushes might be termed medium. There are four or five flowers on a bush at a time. Stem is long, strong and stiff. **\$5.00.**

★ROOKWOOD (Bessie Boston)

In 1927 this decorative was among the prize winning Californians in both the Los Angeles and San Francisco shows. For sheer beauty there is no dahlia like Rookwood. It has been a most persistent prize winner. This decorative is of an entirely new shade of pink, and, of course, difficult to describe. The color is more like the popular Mrs. Charles Russell rose than any flower in commerce; it is pure bright cerise rose, without the faintest touch of magenta, and is as beautiful under artificial light as the Russell rose. The flowers are immense, with good depth, and are held aloft on splendid straight stems. The bushes grow low and spreading and are always a mass of blooms. **\$2.00.**

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★RORY O'MORE (Bessie Boston)

Deep maroon, tipped white. Flower is large and grows on a perfectly stiff stem. Blooms freely all season. Flowers are always two colors. **\$1.00.**

★ROSE (Bessie Boston)

There is an occasional dahlia which suggests a name and this is one of them. We have always been struck by its strong resemblance to the most popular flower, the rose. To begin, it is deep rose in color, and its petal formation is similar. It grows on a strong stiff stem, like the modern rose, but the flower is of course much larger. It is a sturdy grower, bushes are fairly tall and always full of fine flowers which are a delight to cut. Late blooms equal early ones, and centre is perfect at all seasons. Flowers are also of exhibition size if disbudded. **\$3.00.**

★ROSELANI (Bessie Boston)

The color is a rose pink shading to a white centre. Each petal is faintly edged with carmine. When the flower has been cut a day or two, the white centre is most noticeable. Petal formation is not stiff. The stems are incomparable, long and stiff as bamboo, and grow right out of the foliage. Bushes are tall and productive of heaps of flowers which are always perfect. **\$2.50.**

★SALADINI (Bessie Boston)

An autumn colored dahlia which for many reasons is a favorite. It was the first variety to bloom and it bloomed most freely for several months. The flowers kept unusually long on the bush and when cut. It is our duty every morning to free the bushes in the Highway garden of faded blooms; we found Saladini's flowers laster longer than any other. The color is fascinating, a bright gold, suffused with brownish pink and shading to a tan centre. The shading changed but slightly as the season advanced. Stem is long and stiff. Bushes grow about three feet tall and branch freely. Flower is very large and of the new pin wheel formation. **\$5.00.**

★SALBACH'S WHITE (Salbach)

Good whites are scarce and as a consequence are in great demand. This is a big, pure white, carried on a perfect stem. Bushes bloom very freely. The best white we have ever seen for florist's use. A bride's table decorated with Salbach's White was a picture never to be forgotten. This is a dahlia which flourishes in hot as well as cool weather. **\$4.00.**

★SERENA (Bessie Boston)

Here is a variety which has pleased everybody. Bushes are always laden with very large blooms of a striking combination of color. White, heavily shaded lavender and suffused with blue. Shading never varied in hot and cool weather. Bushes grow tall and branching. Flowers are always big, even if it does bloom so freely. Stem is long and stiff. Formation of flower is attractive. One bush should provide a daily bouquet. **\$2.50.**

★SHUDOW'S LAVENDER (Bessie Boston)

Is a great favorite and has won too many prizes to list. It was among the twelve prize winning Californians at the 1927 Los Angeles show. The very large bloom is a silvery lavender slightly shading to white. In hot weather, the white will be more marked, but as the season advances, will almost entirely disappear. The stem is absolutely perfect, long and stiff, and holds erect the big blossom. It will bloom constantly and freely from early to late season and never show a centre, and also has excellent keeping qualities as a cut flower. One of its most unusual features is the attractive lace-like foliage. The plant is a very tall and robust grower and it often grows to the height of eight feet. Gold medal variety. **\$2.00.**

★SUSAN G. TEVIS (Bessie Boston)

An exceptional dahlia, which will produce an abundance of flowers throughout the season. Will be among the first to flower and will produce as good specimen blooms at the end of the season as in the beginning. This decorative has a distinctive color tone, best described as a deep shade of lilac with a bluish sheen. The blossoms are regularly formed of narrow, flat, pointed petals. It is a very large, graceful bloom, of fine depth. A very vigorous grower of dark bronze foliage, which makes a striking contrast to the dark lilac flowers. We just defy anyone to produce a better stem. **\$2.00.**

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★TOMMY ATKINS (Bessie Boston)

There was never such a startling color—flaming scarlet—so full of metallic lustre that it fairly glistens in the sunshine. The name was given it because of its stunning coloring, which is like the British soldier's tunic. The large deep blossom is attractively formed, and is not stiff and formal. The centre remains closed until the bushes are cut down by frost. And oh, yes, the stem is quite as stiff as the cane the British soldier swaggers with, and it blooms very early and continuously. Do you wonder this dahlia won the prize for the best red in the 1928 Los Angeles Show? **\$1.50.**

★TREASURE (Bessie Boston)

According to Ridgeway this decorative is cream with a reverse of deep jasper pink. The pink in the flower is deeper and richer than the color plate denotes. Look at the flower at the back and it is all pink, turn it face forward, and it is cream, heavily shaded pink. The color on the back shades the petals. The blossom is large and composed of long, narrow petals which have a delightful twist and turn. Stem is perfection itself. Bushes grow tall and robustly and are always a picture with their wealth of blooms. Centres remain closed all season. **\$4.00.**

★VALENTINO (Bessie Boston) Illustrated

Derrill W. Hart wrote in the 1928 Dahlia Roll of Honor in the AMERICAN HOME: "A luscious colored dahlia of creamy salmon shading to rose pink. A large flower on good stems and one of the most attractive color combinations among the newcomers."

An enthusiastic New York amateur wrote: "A very superior dahlia. Shows beautiful pink under electric light. Wonderful as cut flower because it keeps so long. Blooms all the time. Stem excellent. True to type all the time." When two members of the Kelley Color Films, Inc., were taking pictures of our Highway Garden, they were fascinated by a large bunch of blooms of this variety. As the decorative had no name, they named it Valentino. The name suggests beauty, and the dahlia is one of the most beautiful we have produced. The color is true salmon pink shading to cream at the centre. The flower has enormous size and attractive form. Stem is long and upright and grows out of bushes of medium height. This variety attracted many people who saw it growing, and received many favorable comments in the show. **\$10.00.**

★WATER LILY (Bessie Boston)

There are many distinctive types of dahlias, but now and then a variety will take the form of another flower. This decorative closely resembles a water lily. The illusion is perfect when the flower is floated in a bowl of water, for even the texture of the petals is like the aquatic flower. The color is delicate, true pink. Petals are a paler pink on the outside and a deeper shade on the reverse, and have a clean, crisp appearance. The flower is large and carried on a long stiff stem. Bushes grow tall and are continuously in flower. Form is always perfect. Blossoms last unusually well when cut. **\$5.00.**

★WINSOME (Bessie Boston)

A clear medium shade of pink with no lavender shadings. Immense, well formed, deep blossoms, of narrow petals. The chief characteristic of this variety is its remarkably long leafless stem. It has one of the longest stalks we have ever seen. It produces an abundance of blossoms, all of which are perfect. Does not require heavy disbudding to obtain size and length of stem. No word description will do this pink decorative justice, as it has singular beauty and will be noticed at once in a garden of hundreds of varieties. Bushes grow tall and branching. **\$10.00.**

★YUKON (Bessie Boston)

Very distinctive coloring of Royal Purple. Purple with a blue light running through it. This blue suffusion is most noticeable on the outer petals. A large but not immense flower, with a stem hard and stiff. Bushes are tall and luxuriant, and the contrast between the green foliage and many purple blooms arrested the eye at once. Visitors asked instantly, "What is it?" **\$1.50.**





Decorative Dahlia "Valentino"

New Cactus Dahlias of Our Own Introduction

The cactus always will be a favorite with many people because of its unique formation of petals, which make it look like a chrysanthemum. The petals are long, narrow, pointed, twisted or fluted. The hybrid cactus is popular; it is a large bold flower, of coarse petals.

American Cactus is a newer type. The petals are coarser than the English exhibition, but not heavy enough to form a hybrid. Good stems feature strongly in this new class. In the East, flowers of this type are permitted in the cactus collections.

★A. A. STYVERS (Bessie Boston) Illustrated

There are almost as many forms of hybrid cactus as there are decoratives. Mr. Broomall introduced a very distinct form in Ambassador. This new dahlia is like Ambassador except the petals are incurved, not straight. Flowers are at all times immense, and carried on fine, strong, long stems. Color is most attractive, amber shaded with salmon rose, with a distinct centre of creamy tan. There is no dahlia exactly like it in coloring, and it is a variety which does not change coloring when grown in a different soil and climate. Nine-inch flowers are a daily occurrence, in fact, we have had many flowers eight and nine inches when the terminal buds have not been removed. Yes, we believe in disbudding dahlias, but all plants bloom freely in San Mateo's delightful climate and sometimes a bush or so escapes us. There will be no limit to the size of the flower if heavy disbudding is practiced. Centres remain closed the entire season. Bushes grow tall and at all times are weighted with flowers. Mr. and Mrs. Styvers' of New Jersey visit was a pleasant incident of the 1927 season. Mr. Styvers was attracted by a single bloom of this variety in our house. So there and then we promised him a root for the following Spring, and this is what he wrote in answer to the inquiry if he thought the dahlia worthy naming for him. "The hybrid cactus had some excellent flowers and they keep from two to three weeks. I have never seen such a good keeper. With me it is an amber centre running to a deep pink on the outside. . . . It is very flattering of you to suggest the name for this cactus and as long as it meet your approval it certainly meets mine to have it called A. A. Styvers." Mr. Styvers has been exhibiting dahlias in the amateur class in New Jersey shows and has a wonderful record in winning prizes for many years. Last fall he entered in open competition class and won heavily. April 15th delivery. **\$20.00.**

★AMAR (Bessie Boston)

The first flowers of this variety that bloomed this year were brought to us in the house; they had fine stems. But to our intense sorrow most of the stems have not been perfect since. You know we never deliberately save a dahlia with a poor stem. The biggest seedlings we have ever had have been dug out for that fault. I think possibly the drooping stem of this variety was due to the cool summer. Unfortunately the gardener who has been in charge of our seedling garden for many years, is out of the country, so we were unable to consult him on the habits of this dahlia. It is the most beautiful thing we ever saw, both in color and form. The immense flower is composed of long, rolled petals, and they are the loveliest shade of old rose, suffused with violet. Later in the season the violet is not noticeable, and there is a slight gold tone at the base of the petals. Bushes grow low and are always in flower. These blossoms, either floated or placed in a bowl, make a most attractive table decoration. We used four, with the foliage, in a flat green bowl, and everybody who saw this admired it. We know it is a gamble whether the stems will be good or poor next year, and we will be delighted to have reports on its doings in other climates. Yes, frankly, we love it. **\$5.00.**

★BONFIRE (Bessie Boston)

A huge, loosely formed hybrid cactus of the most marvelous coloring. The petals are pure orange with a reverse of flame. A friend gave us this name; she claimed it aptly fitted the flower. As beautiful under artificial light as it is in the daytime. The petals are very long and narrow and roll loosely. Perhaps in some locations this variety will take the decorative form. Bushes grow fairly tall and are always productive of a mass of flowers. Excellent cutting stems which will add grace to a bouquet of mixed dahlias. **\$5.00.**

★FLORABUNDA (Bessie Boston)

Literally translated the name means "free flowering." The name suits this hybrid cactus, for one bush contained every day last season, a bouquet of splendid, stiff stemmed, flowers. You can imagine the pleasure of growing a long row of this low growing variety. The flower stems are strong as a cane and grew well above the foliage. The most pleasing color is bright gold heightened by a delicate apricot flush, which is distinctive as well as unusual. With the ordinary disbudding of a busy dahlia grower, our flowers averaged eight inches, and we sighed when we realized how much bigger the flower would have been in an amateur's garden where heavier disbudding was practiced. This is a very early and continuous bloomer, with full centred flowers all season. This dahlia has most exceptional keeping qualities; this is what we all want. **\$10.00.**



New Hybrid Cactus Dahlia "A. A. Styvers"

NEW CACTUS DAHLIAS OF OUR OWN INTRODUCTION (*Continued*)

★HEARTSEASE (Bessie Boston)

An enormous hybrid cactus of two contrasting shades of orchid. The outsides of the petals are a silvery lavender, the reverse a much deeper tone. This gives the effect of a cattleya orchid. Coloring is quite new, but a two-year-old seedling decorative which won the prize for us in the Palace Hotel show last fall, was similar in coloring. It attracted more attention than any seedling displayed because of this alluring color. Form is perfect. Petals are long and closely rolled. Centre remains closed the whole blossoming period. Stems are hard and canelike. Requires but little disbudding. The bushes grow tall and luxuriantly. Foliage is a dark green, a pleasing contrast to the orchid colored blooms. Flowers start early and continue in abundance until late in November. Color never varies. Recommended for all purposes. **\$10.00.**

★ROSETTA (Bessie Boston)

This is an all-round excellent dahlia as well as a beautiful one. Coloring is different, and could be aptly described fawn pink. The outside of the petals is chamois softly flushed with old rose, the reverse is old rose with a violet suffusion. Yes, we said the coloring is different. The bushes grow tall and bloom very freely all season. Flowers have at all times good centers. Form is good, size large, and stem always strong and upright. A sturdy and luxuriant grower. Watch the laterals and keep them trimmed out, by doing this you will be rewarded with an abundance of splendid flowers which can be used equally well in the home as on the exhibition table. The writer has never passed the row of Rosetta without pausing to admire the blossoms and visitors have particularly admired the lovely odd coloring. Hybrid cactus. **\$5.00.**

Cactus Dahlias—*Novelties and Standards*

*The Prices are for Strong Tubers
Those Starred are California Dahlias
Introducers' Names are in Parenthesis*

★ABUNDANTE (Bessie Boston)

This is the Spanish word for abundance, accent the *e* when pronouncing it. It is one of the first to burst into bloom, and never ceases. Late November, the bushes still contain many flowers, which are of perfect form. This is a large, bright yellow cactus of American type. Flower is perfectly incurved. Stem is very strong and stiff. Bushes grow luxuriantly and fairly tall. **\$4.00.**

★BALLET GIRL (Bessie Boston)

A prize winner in England. A bush will contain such a variety of blooms that it is no fun to describe it. The biggest percentage of the flowers are orange with a white edge, but there are pure orange blooms, white flowers shading to orange, white flowers, edged orange and other variations all on the same bush. **\$1.50.**

★CAVALIER (Bessie Boston)

A most noticeable dahlia of brilliant scarlet. Every man last fall was attracted by it and so were most of the women. Even those who did not want a red variety. It is a bright geranium scarlet which does not burn on the hottest day. The large flower is built up of many claw-like petals. Stem is strong and long. Bushes grow tall and produce blossoms in abundance. Hybrid. **\$5.00.**

★CIGARETTE (Bessie Boston)

A hybrid cactus more vividly colored than Ballet Girl. Best described as creamy white, heavily edged orange, but no two flowers are exactly alike. The petals are long and narrow and inclined to roll. Bloom is large and of good substance. Stems are of the best quality. **\$1.00.**

★CINDERELLA (Bessie Boston)

A hybrid cactus which is almost perfect in type. The long petals are tubular and pointed. Large, deep, full flower of incurving formation. The sturdy, tall bushes are always covered with flowers on long stems, which stand up and look you in the face. Flowers are full to the centre even late in the autumn. This prize winner is fawn pink shading to a tan centre. **\$1.50.**



Hybrid Cactus Dahlia "Dorothy Dix"

CACTUS DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★DADDY BUTLER (Bessie Boston)

One of the most popular dahlias ever introduced, and a persistent prize winner. This is a large hybrid cactus of the truest form for exhibition. The many petals are perfectly rolled. The color is of the American Beauty rose shades, or rosy carmine. Stem is perfect and we never grew a dahlia which was a heavier producer of blossoms. Will last fresh a week when used as a cut flower. **\$1.00.**

★DAPHNE (Ballay)

An uncommonly handsome pink hybrid cactus which was judged the best 1928 seedling in the Palace Hotel Show. Six long stemmed blooms were shown in a vase. We are continuing with part of the originator's description. Bright true pink, sometimes having a touch of a slightly deeper shade at the center. The enormous shaggy flower is of the true hybrid cactus formation. The many blooms, with tight, perfect centres, are held on stout, straight stems high above the foliage. Its rare coloring and exquisite beauty has immediately made it a favorite. **\$10.00.**

★DOROTHY DIX (Bessie Boston) Illustrated

An immense blossom of silvery pink of distinct incurved formation. Petals roll very evenly. Stem is perfect, long and stiff. Plants grow tall and sturdily and produce big flowers early and late. Centre is always closed. A big bunch of Dorothy Dix picked the middle of November, had excellent stems, closed centres, beautiful color and large size, and yet the bushes were among the first to blossom. This is one of the largest hybrid cactus we have ever grown and will be found splendid for exhibition and delightful for cutting. We cheerfully recommend it, for despite its enormous size, it has every good quality. We have received most excellent reports of this 1928 introduction which we consider one of the best of the many hybrid cactus. **\$10.00.**

★EL GRANADA (Bessie Boston)

"El Granada has a remarkable quality which I have never heard mentioned in print; it lights up a room with a glow which seems to come from an open fireplace. Have you noticed it? Remarkable," wrote an Ohio customer. The color is a vivid orange, and the petals twist and interlace, showing at the tips a creamy yellow reverse. The long stem grows well out of the foliage and is absolutely stiff and faultless. The high bushes are covered with large, deep flowers with closed centres, from early until late season. This is one the largest hybrid cactus grown, and has won prizes from coast to coast since its introduction. Has won innumerable prizes for us, beginning with the Gold Medal for the best six blooms of a three-year-old seedling. **\$2.00.**

★ELSIE OLIVER (Bessie Boston)

This is a delicate pastel blend of pink and cream. It is a creamy pink shading to cream in the centre. But while the color is an exquisite feature, a blossom of any color would be a prize winner with its immense size and formation. Perfect hybrid cactus, with long evenly rolled petals and a good centre. Free bloomer with good stems. **\$1.50.**

★EMPIRE (Bessie Boston)

American type. Bold large flower of raspberry red is composed of many perfectly rolled, incurved petals. The color is deeper at the centre and gradually lightens to pure raspberry. Profuse bloomer of double flowers. Prize winner. **\$2.00.**

★FELISE (Bessie Boston)

"A peaches and cream coloring," so said many visitors, but that is rather an indefinite description. A pastel shading of creamy pink, toning into deep cream, would be more exact. The outer petals are pink, and the centre ones are cream illuminated with a yellow glow. This is one of the most beautiful dahlias. Form is perfect. Petals are long and roll evenly. Stem is long and stiff and the size is immense. Starts to bloom early and keeps at it all season. Plants grow medium height. Hybrid. **\$7.50.**

★GEORGE COULTER (Mawson)

New 1929. A description cannot be written about this superior new dahlia without a brief explanatory story. The original George Coulter was for many years a dahlia grower connected with the Star Dahlia Gardens in San Francisco. He welcomed all visitors with a kindly smile and never was too busy to take an interested dahlia fan all over the garden. Everybody liked him and now he is crippled and unable to work, his friends are trying to provide a fund for him. Mr. Mawson has donated the entire stock of a fine dahlia, and Mr. McWhirter has asked a few of us to list it. We are giving the price as Net so our sales can be turned over complete to this kindly friend, with whom we have spent many a happy hour discussing dahlias. Now, for a brief description. This immense hybrid is bright red. It is a deep flower with long, graceful, closely rolled petals. Bushes grow tall. Stems are long and canelike and carry the blossoms well above the foliage. This was among the most admired of the new introductions in the Show of the Dahlia Society of San Francisco at the Palace Hotel last September. It is a dahlia which has all the good qualities, so it is a pleasure to recommend it. **\$5.00 Net.**



Hybrid Cactus Dahlia "Gertrud Ederle"

CACTUS DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★GERTRUD EDERLE (Bessie Boston) Illustrated

Our customers, far and near, have written that this is a dahlia which is absolutely true to the appended 1928 description. This primrose hybrid cactus was exhibited and named in the 1926 show. It attracted great attention, but the sale of it was withheld for another season. It won the Santa Barbara cup in the Dahlia Society of San Francisco show in 1927 for the best twelve blooms of one variety. The long straight petals form a very large flower which keeps its centre the entire season. Blooming starts early and the bushes are always well laden. Stem is rigid and long and carries the flower well above the foliage. Plants grow medium height and will need dis-budding as the laterals grow quickly. The soft creamy yellow, like the English primrose, is most attractive, and is especially so under artificial light. The flower has unusual keeping qualities, the twelve prize winning flowers were all perfect the third day of the show. \$7.50.

★IAN (Bessie Boston)

Every good dahlia has emphatically one strong point. With Ian it is form, which is perfectly incurved. A very large and a very deep flower of clear yellow, gradually shading pink on the outer rows of petals. The reverse of these outer petals is also touched with sunset shades. Stem holds the flower upright, so it is equally good for cutting and exhibiting. Blooms freely. Occasionally flowers will be tipped with white. Hybrid. \$2.50.

★KOH-I-NOOR (Bessie Boston)

Maroon, and at times so dark as to be nearly black, perfect type of hybrid cactus, as the petals roll closely and run to a point at the tip. The flower texture has a pronounced velvety sheen which adds greatly to its beauty. Blossoms are very large and deep. Centre perfect throughout the season. Stem is stiff as a cane. Blooms abundantly at all times. \$1.00.

★LUCKY STRIKE (Hodgens)

Incurved flower is very large and full. Petals are long and closely rolled. Color is pure snow white. Stem is long and good. An early and bountiful bloomer. Twelve-inch blossoms have been grown in San Francisco of this stunning white hybrid. \$2.50.

★MARIPOSA (Bessie Boston)

"My biggest bush of Mariposa had twenty-nine fully opened flowers, beside ten or more buds showing color, and many smaller ones, all at one time, and it was disbudded to give long stems, too." Writes an Ohio grower. Colors of this lovely hybrid cactus vary in different climates. With us it is usually pink, with a deeper pink centre, suffused and veined with lavender. Some customers get it our coloring and others get it where the lavender prevails. It is always beautiful. A very large flower of perfect hybrid formation composed of long, narrow, incurved petals which twist and turn. An absolutely firm, stiff stem, which rises at least a yard out of the foliage. A centre which is regular and perfect throughout the season. Blooms early and keeps full of flowers the entire fall. Has been a consistent prize winner wherever grown. \$1.00.

★MERCEDES (Bessie Boston)

A very gay and entrancing flower of creamy yellow suffused with sunset pink. The reverse of the straight petals is splashed with deeper pink. Flower is exhibition size. One of the earliest and freest bloomers. Hybrid. \$2.00

★NICHU (Bessie Boston)

Do you remember Yellow King? Nichu is a new Yellow King, but blooms abundantly and has a decent crop of tubers. The blooms are immense, of very incurved shape. Flower is held erect on a strong stalk. A cheerful bloomer which will produce at all parts of the season, a mass of clear yellow blossoms, with closed centres. \$2.00.

★OBERON (Bessie Boston)

It is a deep old rose with a most pronounced violet suffusion. Immense well built, deep flowers, which will remain double the entire season. A splendid free flowering variety, with strong, upright stems. Hybrid. \$1.50.

★OPHIR (Bessie Boston)

Every dahlia lover knows that in his garden there are dahlias which have such marked characteristics, they stand out among the others. This variety is one of these, coloring as well as form is most striking. The centre of the flower is bright gold, while the outer petals are golden bronze distinctly tipped gold. The narrow petals twist and turn like a paper weather cock. Stem is admirable. Sturdy bushes of medium height are always weighted with flowers. Centres always remain closed. The type will probably vary according to the location in which it is planted, but will be hybrid cactus when grown close to the seaboard. May be a decorative when grown inland. \$3.00.



Hybrid Cactus Dahlia "Starlight"

CACTUS DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★PHYLLIS TUCKER (Bessie Boston)

This pink hybrid cactus always gives us a thrill when we see it. A very large, well formed flower of incurved formation, a true bright pink. The base of the petals is cream pink. A very long, leafless stem, holds the flower right on the top. Lasts excellently when cut. Grows tall and luxuriantly. Foliage is very dark green. Starts blooming the last week in August and produces freely until frost. Centre is always closed and flowers never lose their size and stems always remain stiff. **\$5.00.**

★PLUMAS (Bessie Boston)

A huge flower of a coloring we have never before introduced; white, flushed majenta. The darker coloring predominates on the outer petals but is softened with white. The inner petals are delicately touched with majenta. The effect is striking and lovely. Stem is good. Plants grow very tall and bloom generously. In this part of California where the blooming period is long, the centre will open towards the end of the season. Hybrid. **\$2.50.**

★POMPADOUR (Bessie Boston)

There are many pretty girls and many pretty dahlias, but an occasional flapper and an occasional flower instantly arrests attention. Pompadour is one of these dahlias. The color, a clear deep royal purple, is most striking when growing out of the very dark green foliage of the bush, or when cut. Bouquets of lavender and lilac dahlias were enhanced by its addition. The type of hybrid cactus is well defined. All the petals roll evenly. "Just what we need for our collection for the show," said a prominent amateur as he stood admiring a row of this variety. Bushes grow tall and luxuriantly. Foliage is pretty and different. Blooms profusely early and late. Stems are straight and strong. **\$3.50.**

★REGENT (Bessie Boston)

American type. Prize winner. Every bush is weighted with blossoms, none less than eight inches. Very incurved formation. Color, a clear mauve pink. Excellent stem. **\$1.00.**

★SANTUZZA (Hodgens)

New 1929. This immense hybrid cactus has many friends and admirers. Miss Hodgins has exhibited it at several shows, but always refused to sell it until she accumulated a very large stock. However, we grew stock of it for her for two years. Blooms are enormous and most attractively formed. Color is a pure old rose with a glint of gold in the centre. Bushes are tall robust growers, and Miss Hodgins' plants are full of blooms in August. Stems with us were strong and heavy. **\$5.00 Net.**

★SERENADE (Bessie Boston)

The flower resembles a water lily more than a dahlia. The color is an iridescent old rose which shimmers in the sunlight, and under electric lights, like changeable silk. The pale old rose petals have a reverse of violet. This effect of two colors is very marked in the outer petals, while the central petals are shaded with gold suffused with soft rose. Flower is large. Stem is long and straight. If you like dahlias for table decoration, float several flowers of this in a flat bowl. **\$2.50.**

★SONORA (Bessie Boston)

Chrome-orange is the color according to two color charts. To the layman, fiery orange is probably more descriptive. The centre is flame color and the flower shades lighter at the outer petals. In the sunshine it looks as if it were sprinkled with gold dust. A large, but not immense flower with a good stem. Bushes grow fairly tall and bloom freely from early to late season. Centres remain until frost. **\$2.00.**

★STARLIGHT (Bessie Boston) Illustrated

This hybrid cactus won the Santa Barbara silver vase, in the Palace Hotel Show last fall, for the best twelve blooms of one variety. There were many entries for this prize and even the amateurs tried for it. Many complimentary letters have been received about this 1928 introduction.

"It is worth its weight in gold," said an admiring customer, as he gazed at a row of Starlight. Pure unshaded gold is the color, and this we might add, is a coloring which few customers can resist. It is a gold shade which combines with everything in the average house decorations. Flower is huge and there seems to be no limit to the size it can be grown. Bushes are fairly tall, robust and branching. They start to bloom early and are always laden with perfect centre flowers. Form is capital; petals roll evenly until very late in the year. Stem is incomparable; long, rigid, and carried well above the leaves. Starlight is an A-1 dahlia, for it has exquisite color, fine formation, long stems, gigantic size and freedom of bloom. Will be found a boon to exhibitors as well as to people who admire huge flowers. **\$15.00.**

CACTUS DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★UNUSUAL (Bessie Boston)

This was among our winners at the Palace Hotel show in 1927, and we had not named it. A customer admiring it, asked, "what is the name of that unusual hybrid cactus," and that question settled the name, Unusual. The base coloring is cream, heavily suffused with the deepest shade of cerise pink. Every petal is heavily tipped with this odd coloring, and there is a glint of gold showing in the inner petals. Don't you think the name suits the flower? The large blossom is incurved with closely rolled petals. Stem is stiff and strong and carries the flower well above the leaves. The tall plants produce freely all season. Flowers of this variety will be found splendid for exhibiting and admirable for bouquets. Unusual created a sensation last year in a far-away London garden. **\$3.00.**

★VIGO (Bessie Boston)

English cactus varieties are shy producers of seeds, so finally when you do discover one in a seedling patch, you mark it and watch anxiously for its second season's development. Alas, usually it is a failure. We have only introduced two English cactus, and now comes Vigo. The flower is composed of many fine, closely rolled petals, and is borne on a stiff stem. Coloring is delightfully novel, a smoky pink, or ashes of roses. Bushes grow tall and bloom like weeds. Very large flowers will be the result of careful disbudding. Flowers keep their centre all season. **\$2.50.**

★WELCOME (Bessie Boston)

Do you like a perpetual bloomer? Do you like to grow a dahlia which will produce a big vase of blooms, and will be full of buds and half open flowers so you can gather another bunch in two or three days from the same bush? If so, you will love this hybrid cactus. The large flowers are brilliant buttercup yellow, with the outer petals shading to apricot. Stems are both long and stiff and are leafless for twelve and fourteen inches below the bloom. Bushes grow tall and sturdily. **\$1.50.**

★ZANTE (Bessie Boston)

Another gold, but decidedly different, as it is heavily suffused with apricot pink. The centre is of the deeper shading. The coloring remains true all season but the gold deepens as the season advances. The blooms are very deep and very large. The stem is stiff as a poker and holds the flower erect. This is a perfect type of hybrid cactus. Never shows an open centre. Bushes are always covered with flowers. **\$2.50.**



Peony Dahlias—*Novelties and Standards*

*The Prices are for Strong Tubers
Those Starred are California Dahlias
Introducers' Names are in Parenthesis*

The Peony Dahlia is a semi-double flower showing a yellow centre. To be perfect in type, the centre should be surrounded by small petals, or petaloids.

★CHANSON (Bessie Boston)

The color is the deepest lilac with a bluish sheen. Petals are numerous, broad and flat, giving substance. Stem irrepachable. Floriferous. **\$1.00.**

★CORAL (Bessie Boston)

The petals are long and curling. The centre is well pollinated, and the many petaloids surrounding it, curl and twist properly. Color is quite new, luminous coral red, shading to coral pink at the tips of the petals. Flowers are large and produced freely on stiff, straight stems. **\$3.00.**

★ELIZABETH BOSTON (Bessie Boston)

Enormous blooms are of deep crimson, shading to old gold at the tips, and will hold its color the entire season. The centre is surrounded with tiny, curly petals which make this introduction perfect of its type. Stems are exceedingly long and cane-like. Tall growing and very floriferous. Prize winner. **\$2.00.**

PEONY DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★GORGEOUS ELIZABETH (Bessie Boston)

In our garden, we often have a nickname for a dahlia, and sometimes we can never remember its proper labelled appendage. This peony has been dubbed Gorgeous Elizabeth since we saw its first blossom, and the name is most descriptive to the thousands of people who are familiar with dahlias. It combines the best characteristics of the two peonies from which it took its name. Color is a brilliant red gayly tipped gold. Blooms very early and continuously. Bushes grow very tall and ten-inch blossoms on stiff stems continue all season. The average stem is over a yard long. **\$5.00.**

★LYSTRA (Bessie Boston)

A flower of perfect type. Petals long and narrow and slightly incurved. Yellow centre is surrounded with many small petaloids. Flower is large but not too heavy, and is true to type wherever grown. Stem is long and holds the flower upright. Bushes are fairly tall and luxuriant. Blooms early and very freely. Color is pale salmon suffused with yellow. The latter color is most noticeable at the base of the petals. The form is the same as the old favorite, Geisha. **\$3.00.**

★ROSARIO (Bessie Boston)

Ah, the color, a new true pink. It appealed to men and women alike who saw it, a mass of blossoms, in our garden last fall. Even the fellow who did not like the peony type, could not resist the color. The pink is unique; nothing like it. The color deepened as the cold dewy nights came, but was always lovely. Flowers are very big and carried straight up on long stems free from leaves. Peony formation is perfect. The yellow centre is well surrounded with small curling petals. Flowers are always true to type. Plants grow fairly tall and are always covered with blossoms. **\$3.00.**

★VIVANDIERE (Bessie Boston)

Cerise carmine, shading lighter at the tips of the petals. The flower has a peculiar velvety texture that makes it most desirable. An immense deep peony, with the centre surrounded with petaloids. Eight-inch blooms are attainable without disbudding. The stems are excellent. Sometimes takes a decorative form. **\$1.00.**



Collarette Dahlias—*Novelties and Standards*

*The Prices are for Strong Tubers
Those Starred are California Dahlias
Introducers' Names are in Parenthesis*

These are single dahlias with a collar of small petals surrounding the yellow disc. Fine for cutting. Note our picture.

ABBE HUGONARD (Rivoire)

The coloring is a striking purple with a distinct white edge. Collar is white. **50c.**

★ANJOU (Bessie Boston)

A brilliant, but not violent, majenta, which gradually shades lighter until the tips are almost white. Collar is white, shaded majenta. Most attractive. **50c.**

★BELLE (Bessie Boston)

New 1929. There are several red and yellow collarettes, but this new introduction is the biggest. Color is bright red shading to yellow, and it does not vary when the cool nights arrive. Stem is straight and long. Collar is yellow. Bushes are productive of countless large flowers. Our collarettes are the first to blossom and the last to go. They are a joy to one who loves flowers indoors as well as outdoors. **\$1.50.**

★ESTRELLA (Bessie Boston)

New 1929. Madame Poirier, a French collarette, was usually described as the bluest dahlia, but it was small, and in a moist climate had a weak stem. Estrella might be described as a new Madame Poirier, but it is very large and the stem is incomparable. Color is a bright royal purple with a bluish sheen. Collar is white. Free flowering. **\$1.50.**

★FILLE (Bessie Boston)

Big and alluring buttercup yellow with a paler collar. A most tempting variety. **\$1.00.**

COLLARETTE DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★FRANK HARRIS (Hodgens)

Very large flower of reddish brown with yellow collar. \$1.00.

★GARCON (Bessie Boston)

Deep purple with a collar of paler tone. Immense, well formed blossom; excellent for cutting and exhibiting. 75c.

★LACQUER (Bessie Boston)

New 1929. A dull Chinese scarlet, varying but a trifle from the red used in lacquer by the Orientals. Flower is very large and regular, has a yellow collar, and stem of course is stiff. Bushes are always laden with high class flowers. The flowers of this variety will stand out boldly in a mixed basket or vase of red and yellow collarettes. \$1.50.



Collarette Dahlias

★LE REVE (Bessie Boston)

New 1929. For many seasons we have watched our collarette seedling patch, hoping and praying for a good pink seedling. At last our dream collarette appeared. This is a silvery pink flower of large size, good form, strong stem, and with a collar of white, tinted pale pink. Owing to large orders taken in the garden, our selling stock is now somewhat limited. By-the-by, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, who won all the collarette prizes in both the Northern and Southern California shows told us their exhibits were composed principally of Bessie Boston introductions. \$2.00.

★MERCEDES ANN (Feeney)

Big, dark maroon, with a contrasting cream colored collar. Good in every way, and generally liked. \$1.00.

★MT. LASSEN (Bessie Boston)

Fiery red with yellow collar. This is a very sturdy grower and is a mass of blooms all seasons. 50c.

COLLARETTE DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

★WILLIAM WELSH (Bessie Boston)

Yellow. Appears in all the winning collections. Collar is also yellow. 50c.

★ZENDA (Bessie Boston)

Deep crimson, or dark red, set off by a cream collar. Formed regularly with eight petals. Very large and good. Low growing. \$1.00.



Pompon Dahlias—*Novelties and Standards*

*The Prices are for Strong Tubers
Those Starred are California Dahlias
Introducers' Names are in Parenthesis*

Tiny, compact flowers of quilled petals. Very floriferous, and do not require disbudding. Splendid for cutting. Note our picture.

★AIMEE (Bessie Boston)—A wee flower of bronze; coloring is entirely new and charming. Blossoms freely on exceedingly long stems. 50c.

★AMBER (Bessie Boston)—Pure amber color. Excellent form, but early blooms are not perfect. 50c.

★ARTHUR (Bessie Boston)—Brilliant scarlet, and the very best in this coloring. Flower is small, regularly formed. Stem is particularly long. Floriferous. 75c.

★BANTAM (Hennig-Bessie Boston)—Very dainty. Small and well formed. Very long stems. Floriferous. Novel color of brownish red. 75c.

★BEBE (McWhirter)—A small, well formed flower of a lovely pink. \$1.00.

★BILLEE (Bessie Boston)—Small scarlet bloom of the best form for exhibiting. \$1.00.

★DANDY (Bessie Boston)—Perfect orange in every respect. Small, well formed and free. 75c.

★DEE DEE (Estes)—Decidedly good. Small. Well formed pale lilac. 50c.

★EDITH (Bessie Boston)—New 1928. A tiny round flower of yellow, heavily tipped brownish red. Very floriferous. \$1.00.

GLOW—Charming old rose; greatly in demand. 50c.

★HAZEL DELL (Hodgens)—New 1928. A charming pink which will be found excellent for cutting. Good form. 75c.

★HELEN ANITA (Feeney)—Pale lavender shading white to the centre. Very pretty and free flowing. \$1.00.

★JOAN (Bessie Boston)—A beautifully formed small blossom of clear yellow suffused with pinkish red. Extra fine. 50c.

★JOE FETTE (Bessie Boston)—The best white for all purposes. 50c.

JOHNNIE—One of the tinst of all; very dark red. 50c.

★LEDA BEELER (Hodgens)—Tiny, compact lavender with very long stems. 75c.

★LITTLE DAVID (Twitchett)—The deepest shade of orange. Small, perfectly shaped blossom. Very free blooming. One of the best. 75c.

★LLOYD HICKMAN (Hodgens)—A distinct new color of old rose. An exceptional cut flower because of its length of leafless stem. 75c.

★MARY (Bessie Boston)—Pale mauve, deepening towards the centre. Well formed and small. 75c.

★MEG (Bessie Boston)—New 1928. A bright buttercup yellow. Small and well formed. Blooms profusely. 75c.

POMFON DAHLIAS—*Novelties and Standards (Continued)*

- ★**MIKE** (Bessie Boston)—A charming new color of burnt orange, shading lighter at the outer petals. Flower is small and round. A profuse bloomer. **75c.**
- ★**MIM** (Bessie Boston)—New 1929. A small compact flower of royal purple. Coloring is new. **\$1.00.**
- ★**PIGMY** (Bessie Boston)—New 1928. Cream, overlaid with pink. One of the tiniest flowers. Good form **75c.**
- ★**TOM** (Bessie Boston)—Small and compact flower of bright yellow, tipped sunset red. Produces masses of blossoms. **50c.**
- ★**YELLOW GEM** (McWhirter)—Yellow. Very free flowering, and the best of its color for cutting. **50c.**



Pompon Dahlias

THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance this year of Mr. Albert Petersen, of San Mateo, who made our photographs. Of Mr. Hubert Langton, representing the Sterling Engraving Company, San Francisco, who made our cuts. And of Mr. Ted Lynn, of San Francisco, who did our printing.

SEEDS SEEDS SEEDS

GROWING dahlias from seeds is a gamble but lots of fun. Nearly everybody sells seeds. We have hitherto refused to do so. But the fall of 1928 was productive of more seeds than we needed for our planting, so we are yielding to the popular demand for seeds. Perhaps another year we will not have any to offer. We cannot honestly recommend seeds. We know only too well, a seedling patch will contain an occasional worthwhile variety and many disappointments. We do not promise prize winners. These seeds were gathered for our own planting from the plants of the largest flowering varieties. The stock of them is quite limited.

50 seeds.....	\$2.50 Net
100 seeds.....	5.00 Net



Decorative Dahlia "Regal"

BESSIE · BOSTON · DAHLIAS
1929